



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

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**FOUNDER AND OPERATOR OF BOGUS POLICE SURVIVORS
CHARITY PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FRAUD CHARGES**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JUSTIN PATRICK WHITE, the founder and president of a purported charitable organization called the Police Survivors' Fund Inc. ("PSF"), located in Long Island City, pleaded guilty this morning to charges that he defrauded scores of New York City businesses and individuals by fraudulently soliciting donations to PSF from late 1999 through January 2002. Trial had been scheduled to start today before United States District Judge KEVIN THOMAS DUFFY.

According to the charges and statements made in court, in October 1999, White registered PSF as a not-for-profit corporation in the State of New York, stating that the purpose of PSF was to "generate funds for families of police officers who were slain in the line of duty." Thereafter, from October 1999 through January 2002, WHITE solicited donations from businesses

located throughout New York City using various false and misleading representations.

According to the Indictment, WHITE provided scripts to his telemarketers instructing them on the methods to be used to solicit maximum donations, including these statements: (i) PSF is a "non-profit organization that helps the families of police officers who have been killed in the line of duty"; (ii) the donor could become a lifetime "member" of PSF by providing a \$1,000 donation, or a one-year "member" with a donation of \$395; (iii) the donor should "go all out for the widows and children"; and (iv) the minimum donation is \$99, where the telemarketer is told to say "surely you can do that for the widows and children."

According to the Indictment, after September 11, 2001, WHITE incorporated various statements relating to the World Trade Center tragedies into the scripts, including the following: (i) "[w]e are currently coordinating our fund drive with the World Trade Center tragedy"; (ii) "[a] lot of people who feel very strongly about what happened at The World Trade Center on September 11th are donating \$911.00 to commemorate the day of terrorism. . . Could you be a staunch donor/supporter and do \$911.00"; and (iii) if donors could not afford higher sums, that they should "[s]ave face in the community with \$50." WHITE admitted as part of his guilty plea today that telemarketers told potential donors that the PSF was "coordinating a fund drive to

help the victims of the WTC tragedy," and that "the money goes to the widows and children of the slain police officers."

During his guilty plea, WHITE admitted that he instructed PSF telemarketers not to tell donors how much of the funds were kept by PSF, and admitted that at all times, PSF kept at least 95% of the donations, rather than distributing those funds to families of slain police officers. WHITE further admitted that he instructed telemarketers to falsely tell donors that PSF conformed with New York State's financial reporting requirements, and that PSF had an application pending for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service, when WHITE had failed to take those steps.

According to the Indictment, during the year 2000, WHITE deposited approximately \$113,000 worth of donations into the Fleet Account. During that time period, WHITE issued a total of three checks from the Fleet Account made payable to family members of slain New York City police officers for a total of \$2,500. During that same period, WHITE issued more than \$90,000 in other checks made payable to cash that were subsequently cashed by WHITE.

It was further charged that in 2001, WHITE deposited approximately \$330,000 into the Fleet Account representing donations made by businesses and individuals to PSF, including approximately \$180,000 after September 11, 2001. During that same period, WHITE issued numerous checks from the Fleet Account made payable to cash, totaling in excess of \$195,000.

The Indictment further charged that, in total, WHITE distributed \$24,500 to families of slain police officers. However, according to documents filed by the Government, WHITE provided \$20,000 of that total to one family in late 2001, only after the New York City Police Department arrested one of WHITE's telemarketers at PSF's offices for criminal impersonation of a police officer during a telephone solicitation to a potential donor. Prior to the arrest of the PSF telemarketer, which occurred in October 2001, WHITE had distributed only \$2,000 to families of slain police officers during 2001, and no money to any families of officers killed at the World Trade Center.

At today's plea, WHITE pled guilty to all the charges in the Indictment, including one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, and three counts of mail fraud. WHITE faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison on each count. At the conclusion of today's plea proceeding, Judge DUFFY ordered WHITE to be jailed immediately. WHITE is scheduled to be sentenced on September 18, 2003, at 9:30 AM in front of Judge DUFFY.

WHITE, 58, lives in Long Island City, New York.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the FBI and the New York City Police Department Impersonation Squad.

Assistant United States Attorneys MARC WEINSTEIN and JUSTIN WEDDLE are in charge of the prosecution.

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